

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

November 3, 2025

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 25-068

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ronnie R. Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2026 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE

FINAL ACTION:	☐ Approved	☐ Approved w/Corrections	☐ Withdrawn
	☐ Denied	☐ Received & Filed	☐ Other

SUMMARY

Every three years, the City must amend the Los Angeles Fire Code (LAFC) to adopt the most recent changes made to the California Fire Code (CFC). The latest changes to the CFC need to be adopted and be in effect by January 1, 2026. To begin the process of amending the LAFC, the Board of Fire Commissioners must request that the City Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the LAFC.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board: Direct the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit this report to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval. Subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor, request the City Council to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Article 7 of Chapter V of the LAMC, which ordinance would replace the current LAFC with the provisions in the 2025 CFC with specified modifications.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department has budgeted for the editing, publication and purchase of the 2026 LAFC amendment package.

DISCUSSION

Every three years, the State of California adopts building standards and regulations, which are codified in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Title 24). Title 24, Part 9 is known as the California Fire Code and is based, in part, on the International Fire Code (IFC).

To carry out enforcement activities, the City must adopt the CFC. California Health and Safety Code Sections 17958.5 and 17958.7 authorize the City to make modifications when adopting the CFC upon finding that the changes are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological or topographical conditions. These amendments must be adopted within 180 days of the CFC's triennial adoption. Because the CFC was adopted in January 2025 and published in July 2025, the City must adopt its amendments by January 1, 2026. Failure to meet this deadline will make any amendments unenforceable.

CONCLUSION

The California Fire Code, which contains regulations for fire and life safety, was updated in 2025. The City must amend the LAFC to adopt the new CFC provisions and make any amendments by January 1, 2026. The resulting updated LAFC will allow the City to provide consistent fire protection for the unique challenges found in Los Angeles.

Board Report prepared by Chad Richardson, Commander, Planning Unit, Administrative Section, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.